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AWFUL DEATH
FROM LOCKJAW

A PERIL OF BEACH RESORTS

A Poison so Terrible That the Venom of a Rattlesnake is Nectar Compared to It.

Bathers have long looked upon death by drowning as their chief danger, but there is another peril, less known but a thousand times more frightful, the peril of a death beside which drowning is a summer afternoon's diversion—death from the germ of tetanus, or lockjaw.

The bacillus tetani distills a poison so terrible that the venom of a rattlesnake is nectar compared to it. One grain will kill 300 men.

These death-dealing creatures love a hot damp climate. Any grain of sand or any tin can or rusty nail or scrap of metal or broken clamshell may have a score of them clinging to it.

These are precisely the conditions of our American beach resorts—the moist, warm air, the beach too often strewn with rubbish, and in any case littered with broken shells and with bits of wreckage from which broken nails protrude.

It is strange that the most deadly work of the germ is done in late spring and early autumn. Fifty per cent of the deaths from tetanus are due to wounds on feet or hands.

The sufferer first experiences a tightening of the muscles of the jaw. Then the face stiffens and the corners of the mouth are drawn back, exposing the teeth in a fierce, mocking grin.

As the face becomes rigid the skin of the forehead is thrown into folds, the wings of the nose rise, and the lips, pressed upon the teeth grow thin and white. The eyes shrink, the lids narrow and a frightful inhuman expression spreads itself over the whole countenance. The rigidity extends to the trunk and then to the limbs. The whole frame is shaken with convulsions and the body arches back until it stands upon its head and heels alone. These spasms subside but return quickly.

The sufferer gasps for breath forty

times each minute. All the symptoms grow worse until death at length relieves the victim's misery.

After the bacillus has entered the wound from five to fifteen days may elapse. The bacilli do not themselves pass into the system. They remain in the wound, but generate a poison which does the work.

In most cases there are preliminary symptoms similar to those of an approaching cold—a dull ache, located before the ear, followed by stiffness in the muscles in the lower jaw. There is a growing difficulty in opening the mouth and attempts to swallow exaggerate the symptom. The jaws then become locked and the disease passes downward to the rest of the body.

In the open air the bacillus remains inactive. It is only when it enters more deeply and gets away from the air that it becomes dangerous. It may be rendered harmless by cleansing the wound with a mixture of one part carbolic acid in twenty of water. Afterward the wound should be filled with tincture of iodine.

If the wound should be a deep one, caused, for instance, by a nail, or if it should be a lacerated wound, caused, for example, by gunpowder, or a crushed wound, as with a hammer, the operation of cleansing may be a difficult matter, and a physician should be called in, who may inject antitoxin.

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mediate points.

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6:10 p. m. intermediate points. 10:30 p. m.

SEASIDE DIVISION.
P. m. a. m.
5:00 11:30 Lv. Astoria. Ar. 7:40 4:50
5:10 11:40 Lv. Warrenton. Ar. 7:50 5:00
5:20 11:50 Lv. Seaside. Ar. 8:00 5:10

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